

County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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February 11, 2005

To:

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Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael, D, Antonovich

From:

David E. Janssen F

Chief Administrative Officer

MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 208 (GORDON) – PRIORITY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR CHILDREN OF MILITARY PERSONNEL (ITEM NO. 2, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 15, 2005)

Item No. 2 on the February 15, 2005 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe to support AB 208 (Gordon), and to send correspondence to the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation, the Assembly Committee on Education and Governor Schwarzenegger urging support and early enactment of AB 208.

As introduced on January 31, 2005, AB 208 would add children of military personnel to the list of students who would receive attendance-priority in a school district.

Under current law, school districts, when accepting new students, are classified as either a residence or a choice district. Residence districts accept all students who reside within the district, and choice districts may or may not accept non-resident students, but must give attendance-priority to siblings of children already in attendance.

AB 208 would give military children an equivalent sibling-attendance priority in "choice" schools whether or not siblings already attend.

According to the Author's office, the bill's sponsor, the Military Family Resources Center (Center), reported that there are 165,000 active duty personnel and 62,000 Reserve and National Guard members stationed at California's 62 military facilities with approximately 131,000 school-aged children. The Center noted that children of military personnel frequently experience difficulties in gaining admission into California school districts which has resulted in military personnel not accepting transfers to California.

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The Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles Unified School District are reviewing AB 208.

There is no existing Board policy on this issue. Therefore, a position on the bill is a matter for Board determination.

There is no support or opposition on record. The bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Education on February 7, 2005, and will be eligible for a hearing after March 4, 2005.

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c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education